



Pandemic Influenza

Pandemic Flu	
What is Pandemic Influenza?	A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. Pandemic Influenza or (Pandemic flu) occurs when a new influenza A virus emerges from which there is little or no immunity in the human populations, it causes serious illness, and then spreads easily person-to-person worldwide.
Will a pandemic influenza occur? If so, when will it happen?	Scientists believe it is a matter of time until the next influenza pandemic occurs. However, the timing and severity of the next pandemic cannot be predicted. Influenza pandemics have occurred three the past century – in 1918-19, 1957-58, and 1968-69
Who is most likely to be affected if pandemic influenza (flu) occurs?	It is most likely that many age groups would be seriously affected. The greatest risk of hospitalization and death will be infants, the elderly, and those with underlying health conditions.
Will the seasonal flu vaccine protect me against pandemic influenza?	No, it would not protect you against pandemic influenza (flu). Although flu vaccines (shots) can help you stay healthy. Current flu vaccines include influenza A subtypes H3N2 and H1N1. A vaccine made fro these viruses would not provide protection from other influenza A viruses (such as H5N1) that are not closely related to them.
What can I do to prepare for pandemic influenza (flu)?	Stock up on water and food supplies. During a pandemic event you may not be able to go the store and supplies may be out. Public waterworks service may also be interrupted. Stocking on these supplies would greatly be useful. Also prepare a family emergency plan and checklist to help in the event of pandemic flu or any other type of disaster.
Where can I go for more information on pandemic flu?	For more information on Pandemic influenza (flu) and how to prepare yourself and family visit www.pandemicflu.gov .